



*Jesus was transfigured
before them*

MARK 9:2

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

www.stpaulsyork.org

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George

YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

This morning we extend a joyful welcome to the members and friends of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, N. George St. and to Pastor Schlegel for their companionship through the Epiphany season (8:00am liturgy).

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 187 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Offerings Offerings are received during the liturgy. They are presented along with gifts of bread and wine at the altar. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

Postlude It is our tradition to remain seated for the postlude. If you need to leave we ask that you do so reverently. This tradition developed as a result of our livestream. We want anyone viewing to be able to listen to the postlude without unnecessary distraction. Thank you.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

An AED/Defibrillator unit is located in the Good Shepherd room. It is placed on the wall left side of the Springettsbury door exit.

The Nursery is accessed through the front right double doors. The liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Parents are asked to stay with their children. Quiet activities are also available in the Narthex for infant through preschool children to use with an adult.

Please be aware that there is a rise in individuals loitering at church buildings and asking for money. This is panhandling and it is illegal. Please do not give money. Simply direct them to contact the Pastor at a time other than during worship. Thank you.

Parents, please do accompany your child to the restroom during the liturgy and wait with them. This is a way for us to practice good safety protocol within our building.

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
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The Transfiguration of Our Lord
February 11, 2024
Holy Communion 8:00 AM & 10:30AM
Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1

PRELUDE *O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair* Aaron David Miller

ENTRANCE HYMN *Jesus on the Mountain Peak (WOV 653)*



1 Je - sus on the moun-tain peak stands a - lone in glo - ry
2 Trem-bling at his feet we saw Mo - ses and E - li - jah
3 Swift the cloud of glo - ry came: God pro - claim-ing in its
4 This is God's be - lov - ed Son! Law and proph-ets sing be -



blaz - ing; let us, if we dare to speak, join the
speak - ing. All the proph-ets and the law shout through
thun - der Je - sus as the Son by name! Na - tions,
fore him, first and last and on - ly One. All cre -



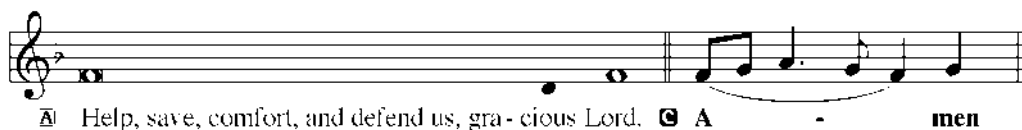
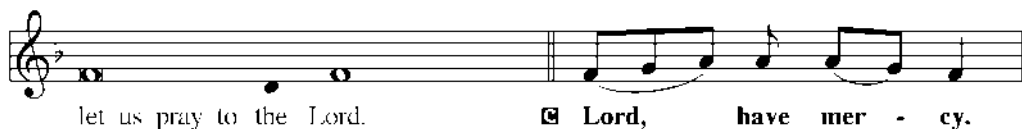
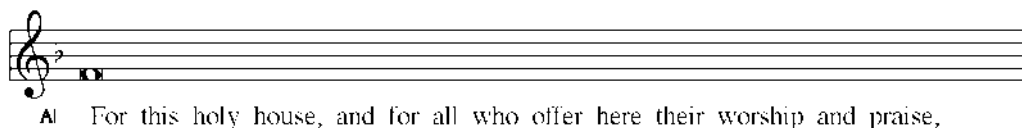
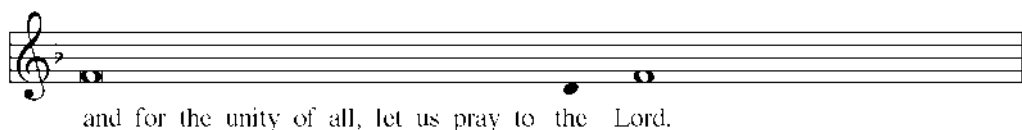
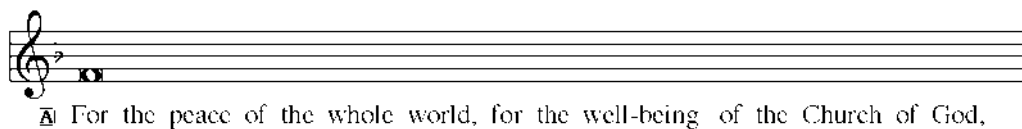
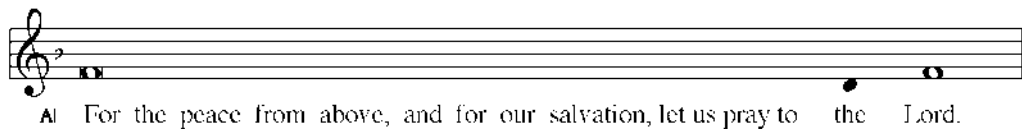
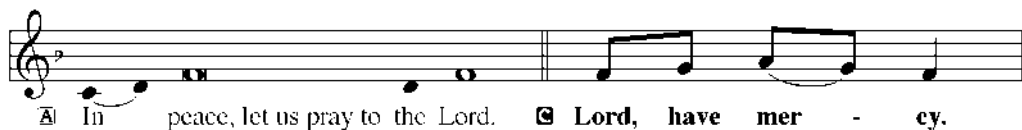
saints and an - gels prais - ing. Al - le - lu - ia!
them their joy - ful greet - ing: Al - le - lu - ia!
cry a - loud in won - der: Al - le - lu - ia!
a - tion shall a - dore him! Al - le - lu - ia!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

8:00 AM KYRIE 10:30 AM Children's Choir *Kyrie* to a setting by J. Merbecke



HYMN OF PRAISE



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . Almighty God, on the mountain you showed your glory in the transfiguration of your Son. Give us the vision to see beyond the turmoil of our world and to behold the king in all his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

CHILDRENS' SERMON

God's Global Barnyard

FIRST READING 2 Kings 2:1-12 (back page)

PSALMODY Psalm 50: 1-6 *spoken responsively by verse*

- ¹ The LORD, the God of | gods, has spoken;*
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun | to its setting.
- ² **Out of Zion, perfect | in its beauty,***
God reveals him- | self in glory.
- ³ Our God will come and will | not keep silence;*
before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a | raging storm.
- ⁴ **He calls the heavens and the earth | from above***
to witness the judgment | of his people.
- ⁵ "Gather before me my | loyal followers,*
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed | it with sacrifice."
- ⁶ **Let the heavens declare the rightness | of his cause;***
for God him- | self is judge.

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (back age)

Stand

VERSE Sung by all



HOLY GOSPEL Mark 9:2-9 (back page)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Stand

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin
Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Transform the hearts of all people to your divine will. Make church leaders serve following your example of grace and healing. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for creation. Teach us to honor all that you have made caring for animals, plants, the air, and bodies of water. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries. Make them strive for goodness and justice. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for all who are sick and suffering (*especially*). Help us as we offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for our congregation and its ministry in the wider community. Equip us with gifts of service and care as we proclaim the good news. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Trusting that all who die in the faith of the church are held in your care, we remember in thanksgiving those who have died (*especially*). Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Sit

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

8:00 AM

Offertoire

Theodore Dubois

10:30 AM Chancel Choir

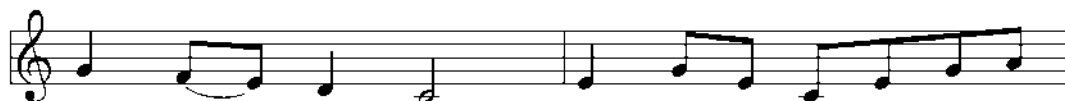
Density of Light

Sarah Quartel

OFFERING



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our



cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the



seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the



prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your

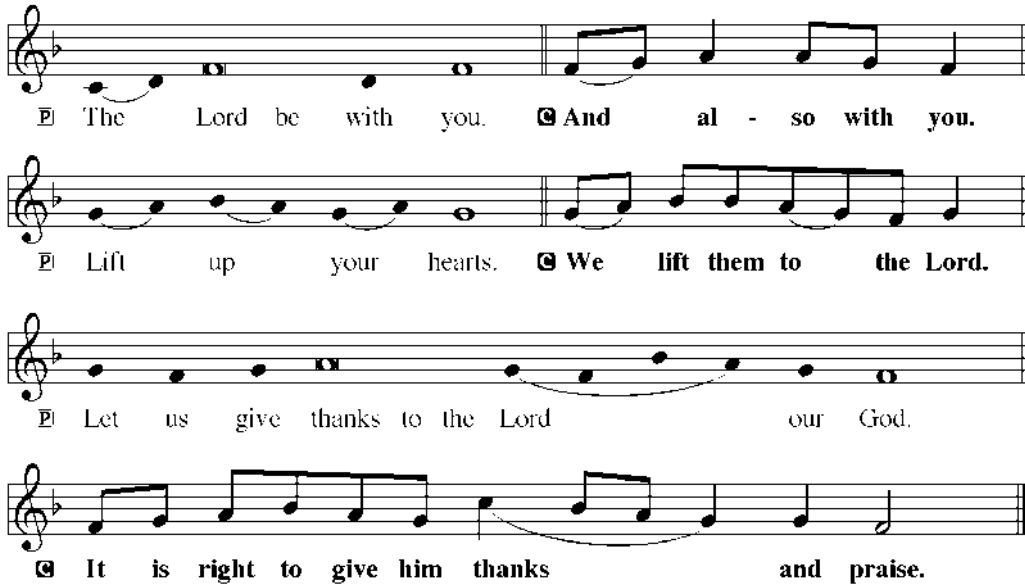


pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,
we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DIALOGUE *Sung by Pastor and congregation*



♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so with you.

♩ Lift up your hearts. ♪ We lift them to the Lord.

♩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

♪ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is sung.*

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

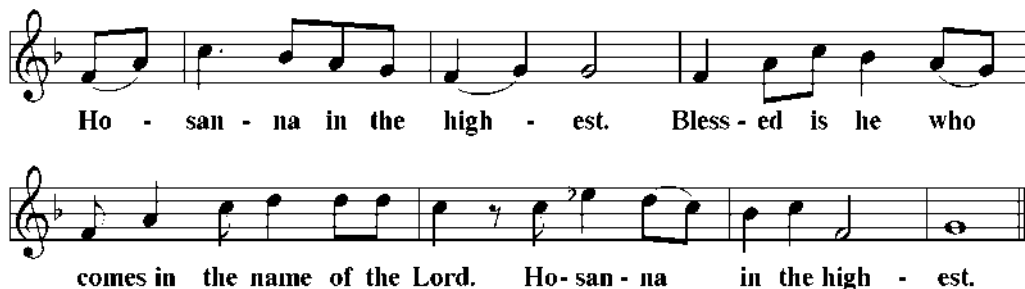
SANCTUS *Sung by all.*



♪ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho - san-na.

Continued on next page...



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.

You rescued Israel, your chosen people.

Through the prophets you renewed your promise;
and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son,
who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered
for us.

And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,
that we who receive the Lord's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory
is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

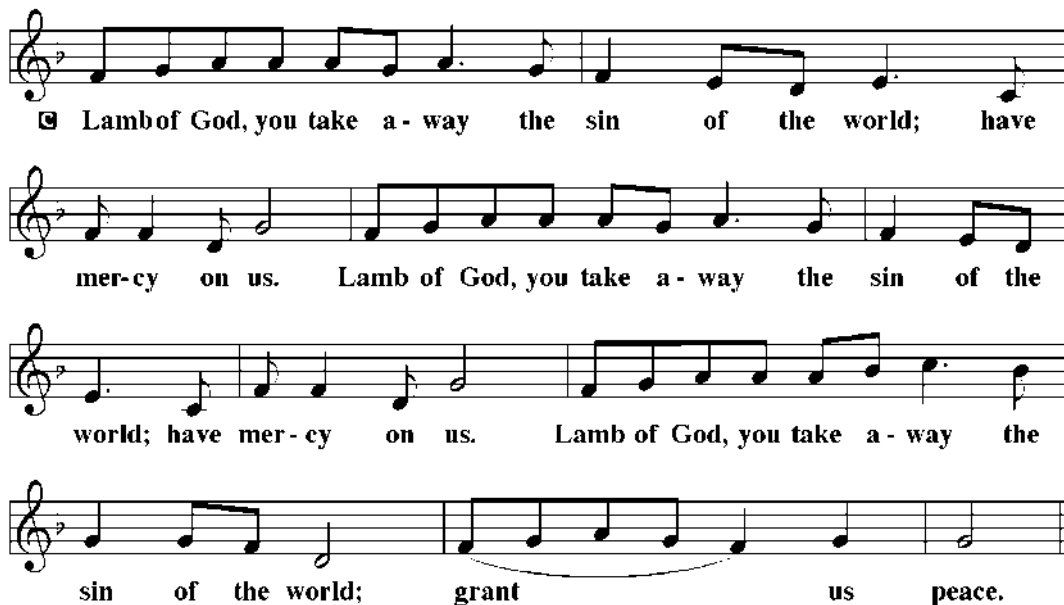
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

FRACTION RITE *A brief silence is kept.*

AGNUS DEI *Sung by all.*



☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Our Communion is “open” to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle (about 10 adults per side).*
- 2. Communion glasses are placed on credence tables at the front pews (left and right side).*
- 3. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 4. Take your place along the chancel step. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.*
- 5. Extend your hands to receive the communion host.*
- 6. Consume the communion host.*
- 7. Hold the communion glass with both hands at chest height so that the communion assistant can easily pour the wine into the glass.*
- 8. Consume the wine before you leave the chancel edge.*
- 9. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
- 10. Return to your pew using the side aisle.*

COMMUNION HYMN *O Bread of Life from Heaven (LBW 222)*

1 O Bread of life from heav - en, O Food to pil-grims giv -
2 O Fount of grace re - deem - ing, O Riv - er ev - er stream -
3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den splen -

en, O Man - na from a - bove: feed with the bless - ed sweet -
ing from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come now, your love be - stow -
dor with - in these means of grace. Oh, let the veil be riv -

Continued on next page...



Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, you revealed the true radiance of your Son in the glory of His Transfiguration. Give us the grace and vision to behold our Lord in the food we receive from heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BURIAL OF THE ALLEULIA

I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; yea, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors.” So says the Church today of her Alleluia. Today it dies, until it rises with Christ at his glorious resurrection.

There is a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to be born and a time to die; a time to laugh and a time to weep; a time to mourn and a time to dance.

I heard a voice of a great multitude in heaven crying: “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God. Alleluia! For the Lord our God, the Almighty reigns.”

Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia!

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

The people remain standing until the minister and servers exit the nave.

HYMN *Beautiful Savior (LBW 518) next page*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Fiat Lux

Theodore Dubois

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Beautiful Savior

Stanza 1: All harmony
 Stanza 2: Women/high voices
 Stanza 3: Men/low voices
 Stanza 4: Unaccompanied Harmony

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in the flow'rs of spring;
 bright in the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assist- ing Min- ister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Set-up & Altar Clean-up
02/11	8:00 AM	Bob Reed	Harrison Palmer	St. Peter's		John & Kathy Monk	Team 2E: Ron Riese, Kathy Monk, Ken Hinkle	Kathy Monk, Lois Ann Schroeder
02/11	10:30 AM	Janet Fitch	Jaclyn Kinkella	Nancy Bennett	Larry Becker	Pat Rudicille & Gerry Briggs	Team 2L: Kem Vaught, Gail Kerch- ner, Sandy Dicken- sheets	Gail Kerchner, Deb Becker

This Week at St. Paul's

Church office open 8:00 a.m.—4pm Mon—Thurs

Sunday, February 11 Transfiguration

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School for All
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream
 11:45 AM 2nd Sunday Sandwiches
 12 noon Holy Communion Class—Youth Room
 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Monday, February 12

7:00 PM Finance Committee Mtg—ZOOM

Tuesday, February 13

9:30 AM Pantry
 6:00 PM CREATE—Preschool—Grade 6

Wednesday, February 14—Ash Wednesday

10:00 AM Preschool & Pastor in Nave
 11:00 AM Ash Wednesday Worship
 12 noon Senior Luncheon—Christ Hall
 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship

Thursday, February 15

Newsletter Deadline

Committee Reports for Council due

10:00 AM Preschool & Pastor in Nave
 6:30 PM Handbell Choir—Chancel
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir—Choir Room

Sunday, February 18

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 8:00 AM Blessing & Dedication of New Altar
 Paraments
 9:15 AM Sunday School for All
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream
 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Monday, February 19—President's Day

Office Closed
 7:00 PM Council Meeting— Christ Hall

**The Season of Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14,
 with liturgies at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM.**



*Today's Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God
 By Kirsten & Sammy Barnes*



Lenten Worship

Sundays 8:00 & 10:30 AM

New Members Class	9:15 AM	Good Shepherd Room
The Psalms	9:15 AM	Christ Hall



Wednesdays

6:00 PM	Supper	Christ Hall
7:00 PM	Vespers	Nave



March 24	Palm/Passion Sunday Handbells, Brass, Organ	Combined liturgy	9:15 AM
March 25	York Conference Vespers Combined Conference Choir	Hosted by St. Paul's	7:00 PM
March 28	Maundy Thursday Foot washing/Stripping of Altar		7:00 PM
March 29	Good Friday Cellos Reproaches of the Cross		7:00 PM
March 30	The Vigil of Easter		7:00 PM
March 31	The Resurrection of Our Lord Organ, Trumpets, Piano Duet	Combined liturgy	9:15 AM

Wednesday Mid-Week Lent Soup & Bread Supper, Christ Hall 6:00 PM Vespers with Preaching, Church Nave 7:00 PM, Starting February 21

The Wednesdays of Lent offer opportunities to strengthen Christian fellowship. A simple supper of soup and bread will be held in Christ Hall at 6:00 PM. Volunteers are needed to sign up to bring soup and bread for each of the five Wednesdays. We will need at least three crock pots of soup for each week.

Following the supper Evening Prayer, Vespers, will be held in the church nave at 7:00 PM. We have invited the congregations of Grace, St. Peter's and Christ Manchester to join us for all or part of the evening. For those who cannot join in person please do join us through the live stream at 7:00 PM. If you would like to provide soup for one on the Wednesdays in Lent please contact the church office or sign up on the bulletin board at the Springettsbury Ave Entrance. Thank you in advance for joining in the meal preparations and offering your prayer and thanksgiving to God.

Lenten Devotional Booklets, *Walking in His Ways Foot Steps to the Cross*

Lenten devotional booklets are available in the narthex on the oval library table and in the Good Shepherd Room on the breakfront. The theme "*Walk in His Ways*" is from Psalm 128 verse one. The Psalmist proclaims that a large and prosperous family is a reward for devotion to the Lord. In this season of Lent daily devotions strengthen our individual families as well as our church family at St. Paul's. Psalm 128 is one of the suggested Psalms for Christian marriage. On a wedding day everything that is yet to come is shaped by devotion to God and devotion to spouse. In addition to the Lenten booklets for adults, there is one geared for children, *Foot Steps to the Cross*. This booklet is accompanied by a sticker chart. Directions are provided on the sticker chart and the daily foot print stickers numbered for each day of lent are provided in the booklet. Please remember that you need both the chart and the booklet! The Christian Education Committee is hopeful that these resources will support you and your family in the Lenten journey.

Lenten Mid-week Offering—God's Global Barnyard

The offerings from the mid-week Lenten services are designated for God's Global Barnyard, a project undertaken by the elementary Sunday school classes. Donations may be made by using your Lenten envelope provided in the packet, by marking a special white color envelope located in the pew rack "Barnyard" and placing it in the offering basin, or through the website by using the Donate Now designation for God's Global Barnyard. In advance thank you for your generous support of the project and for working in conjunction with the Sunday school children. The children look forward to totaling all of the offerings and then with a dollar amount in hand beginning the hard work of figuring out what animals to purchase to help a family or families in a developing nation. We anticipate their report to the congregation during the Easter Season as they share with us the outcome of their work. We extend a special thank you to the Sunday school teachers who work with the children and provide oversight throughout the project.

Announcements and Up-dates for the week February 11, 2024

The next St. Paul's Book Club will meet on March 7, 4:00-5:00 PM at the Panera on South Queen Street. We will discuss *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. The April meeting is set for April 11th with the book to be announced. All are welcome.

St. Paul's is collecting clothing for Union Lutheran Church's Clothing Ministry. Union collects 'gently used' clothing (and shoes) for its clothing closet and offers it **free of charge** to needy families in the York City community. A bin has been placed in the Good Shepherd room for collections. These donations are a blessing to our neighbors. Union's volunteers are very appreciative of our cooperation and our help.

Sunday Morning, Preschool through Grade 6 children will meet upstairs in their age grouped classrooms where they will be learning about Jesus' early life including the coming of the Wise-men, Jesus' baptism, the calling of the disciples, and some of Jesus' miracles. Often children get to act out the stories, wonder about the characters and how they might have felt, and discuss ways that they can grow their own walk as Christians. This is a great time to start your child in a class. Some of the best stories are explored during this winter and spring season. Come!



You may get information regarding closures at our website www.stpaulsyork.org or on our Facebook page: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George.

2024 Flower Chart

The 2024 flower chart is posted on the Springettsbury vestibule bulletin board. The cost of the flowers is **\$35 per vase**. You are welcome to sign up to provide one or both vases. After you have signed up, simply make a check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and mark it altar flowers. This is a great way to honor someone, celebrate a milestone in life, or remember a loved one. The flowers may be taken home with you at the conclusion of the last liturgy or you may have them given to someone who is sick, shut in, or hospitalized. If you wish, you can contact the office to reserve a date, and to provide us with all of the correct information for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin.

Food Pantry News—We need **CANNED SOUPS**! Please put your donations in the shopping cart in the Good Shepherd Room. We are always in need of paper grocery bags with handles and plastic bags. Money donations are gratefully accepted as well. Please place cash or check in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry". Volunteers are also needed for a variety of tasks. Contact Patty Snyder, Ken Hinkle, Teresa Rohrbaugh or the church office (717-843-8155) to volunteer.



The Lutheran Men's Club of York sponsors Wednesday morning Lenten Devotions **for men and women** during breakfast at the Lydon Diner on Rt. 30. The time of fellowship is provided for both men and women and calls upon pastors from the York area to lead the devotional. The start time is 7:30 AM, however, many folks arrive a bit early to share in conversation. Participants order from the menu and are responsible for the cost of their breakfast.

This year's presenters are as follows:

Feb 14 - Ash Wednesday - Rev Keith Fair - Pastor with St. Matthew

Feb 21 - Vicar John Sheaf - Pastor with Trinity, Wrightsville

Feb 28 - Rev Stan Reep - Pastor with St. Paul's

Mar 6 - Rev Andrew Berdahl - Pastor with Advent

Mar 13 - Rev Katherine Brantner - Pastor with St. Paul - Hametown

Mar 20 - Rev James Watt - Pastor with Christ

Mar 27 - Rev Thomas McKee - Retired Pastor. He will administer the Sacrament.

Breakfast begins at 7:30 with the singing of a hymn. Reservations are not needed.

Tanzania Mission Trip

Those representing St. Paul's congregation this June are:

Kesetbrhan Keleta	Steve Heistand	Laura Ferree
Stan Reep	Sue Heistand	Elizabeth Mitchell
Emily Reep	Scott Herdson	Cameron Dickerson
Allen Reep	Nicki Herdson	Margaret Dickerson
Tristan Ericson	Anna Herdson	Tina Llorente
Jessica Ericson	Paula Herdson	Jacyln Kinkella
Ezra Ericson	Drew Herdson	Cheryl Reifsteck
Iris Ericson	Keith Kates	
	Christine Kates	

The group of travelers divides into 4 groups reflecting; Youth, Medical, Educational, and Pastoral Concerns. The children and youth plan to engage with peers learning of similarities and differences in growing up in a Christian community. Those interested in medical care, the new hospital being built in Matayma, and local health clinics will engage with health care professionals. Those who share a passion for education, especially music, will learn educational approaches as well as the enrichment of music. Lastly, others will learn of the work of the local congregation, Mpuguso Lutheran Church, and the Konde Diocese. Please know that the costs associated with the trip have escalated since planning began a year ago. Please do give a gift to help offset the enormous expense of the mission trip. You may do so through a "special" envelope located in the pew rack and marking it "Tanzania". Thank you!

The Transfiguration of Our Lord B, 2024

2 Kings 2:1-12 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 St. Mark 9:2-9

Peter, James and John were selected by our Lord Jesus to trek up the mountain. There it was that they were drawn into a divine drama. They were invited into an intimacy of relationship unlike anything they had here to for experienced. Jesus was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, bright white, a kind of intensity that isn't possible with detergents, cleaners or bleach. And the party of four, who had gone up the high mountain, suddenly became a party of six. And there they were, now two groups of three; Peter, James and John and Elijah, Moses and Jesus. And Elijah and Moses were talking with Jesus. This week's Bible study goers were intrigued by the conversation between Moses, Elijah and Jesus. What were they talking about? What were they discussing?

There is a difference between talking "to" and talking "with" others. Talking "to" is generally speech in one direction while talking "with" implies multiple directions. The latter has at its core a give and take that we identify as conversation. Conversations occur. Sometimes conversations are intentional. But mostly conversations happen.

Not everyone is by nature a good conversationalist. In an article late last fall associated with how to survive family holidays, conversational skills were identified as critical especially in these polarized times. Provided was a list of some qualities that promote and contribute to a good conversation. They are; active listening, empathy, adaptability, curiosity, humor, respect, breadth and depth of topics, along with storytelling and above all patience. The determining factor with conversations is that sometimes you are open to them happening and sometimes you aren't. Sometimes you just don't have the energy to enter into a conversation.

The gospel writer Mark doesn't give us any of the dialogue between Elijah, Moses and Jesus. He provides us plenty of other interaction; what Peter says to Jesus "*Rabbi, it is good for us to be here*" and then he goes on about setting up three booths, three tents for them. The gospel writer helps us make sense of Peter's interaction by informing us that Peter didn't know what to say because he, along with James and John, they were terrified.

When I am terrified I am sure that I don't make a lot of sense or even know what to say. Stupid stuff most likely flows out of my mouth. (You're all sitting there thinking, "My heavens the guy speaking from the pulpit is sure terrified a lot!") And then from the text we learn of another interaction coming in the form of a cloud overshadowing them, and the voice of God from the cloud proclaiming "*This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!*" And of course there is the charge given by Jesus himself not to tell anyone about what they had seen, until the time was right, *until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.*

Conversations occur. When they occur something else happens, not nearly as dramatic as a cloud overshadowing you, or the density of light beyond what detergents, cleaners or bleach can create, what happens is that relationship is formed. Conversations by their very nature promote relationship. And of course the kind of conversation, how it is shaped, directed, and those involved all contribute to the kind of relationship created.

The Witness Committee at St. Paul's is all about creating opportunity for conversation to strengthen our relationships within this faith community. The Valentine's dinner on Friday night permitted young adults to be in conversation with one another while their children were provided with an opportunity to be in conversation with their peers in another area of the church building. The Seniors Luncheon on Wednesday following the 11:00 AM Ash Wednesday liturgy is yet another example. And the up-coming Dinner Groups this spring are yet another. The Fellowship Committee creates opportunities for conversation with Second Sunday Sandwich fellowship today in the Good Shepherd Room, and during the season of Lent with mid-week Lenten meals prior to Vespers. Relationships are formed through conversation.

For us, we are invited into conversation with Jesus, God's beloved Son. He invites us into an intimate relationship with him in Baptism. Through the Word and Water of Holy Baptism we are made clean, not with detergent, cleaner or bleach, but with his own precious blood poured out for us on Calvary's cross. We are brought into a lifelong conversation with him. We participate in the conversation through prayer, the liturgy, reception of Holy Communion, and mutual conversation. The relationship that is formed is shaped by Christ Jesus' active listening, empathy, adaptability, curiosity, humor, respect, breadth and depth of topic, storytelling and patience. When others are willing to give up on you, Jesus is not. His patience toward you and me is beyond measure. We may not be privy to the text that day on the Mount of Transfiguration, but we are provided a vision of relationship bridging time, of relationship that at times can be terrifying, of relationship that calls upon the right timing and the telling others of the divine drama of Jesus and his love.

We are living in the days post resurrection. We believe that Jesus died and was raised by the Father. The ecumenical creeds state it succinctly. The time is right for us to enter into conversation with one another, and with those we encounter in our daily lives. Often people tell me that they don't know what to say. They think that they need to have a particular religious sounding Jesus vocabulary. The article from last fall with pointers on how to survive family holidays can provide some helpful instruction for Christian witness and conversation about Jesus and his love. Heaven knows you don't want to be like Peter, terrified on the mountain, blurting out the first thing that came to mind.

Try a couple of these; active listening, empathy, adaptability, curiosity, humor, respect, breadth and depth of topics, storytelling and patience. Talk with others about the love that you experience in faith community, the deep care, the support and encouragement, and the patience of God when you blurt out the wrong thing at the wrong time, especially God's forgiving love made known through his beloved Son. The beloved Son is the one we are to listen to! It is Christ Jesus who walks down the mountain with his disciples and is beside them in the ordinary things of daily life.

He is with us now drawing us deeper into relationship through conversation, the church's liturgy, and his sacramental giving of himself. St. Mark didn't provide the text of that mount top conversation between Elijah, Moses and Jesus, but he does provide Jesus' words to Peter, James and John. *"As they were coming down the mountain he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead."* Jesus is risen, the time is right, the conversation commences. Amen.

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept

watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Psalms 50:1-6**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.